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March 3, 2006

Mr. Dan Tucker
Director of Office of Finance and Planning
National Cemetery Administration
Department Of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20420-0001

Dear Mr. Tucker:

I want to thank you and your staff, Bill Jayne and Charlie Likel, for meeting with me to review the Department of Veterans Affairs recent report on the establishment of a veterans cemetery at Fort Ord.

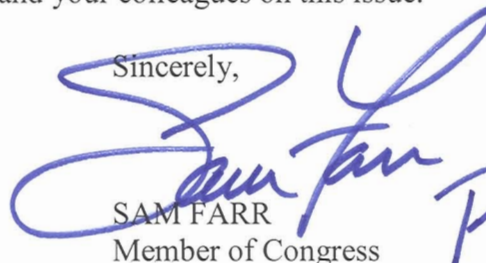
As you know, I have been very frustrated by the current National Cemetery regulations that fail to recognize the unique characteristics of Fort Ord – free land conveyance, multi-modal public access and a strong local military community. It is my fervent hope that the upcoming review of the burial program will take into consideration these kinds of factors.

While the report concluded that Fort Ord would be an ideal site for a state cemetery, I am sure you are aware that both the Davis and Schwarzenegger Administrations have refused to apply for a State Cemetery Grant for Fort Ord. Without the State's willingness to submit an application, my local vets are stymied. I have tried to "think outside the box" and find a local funding stream that could relieve the state of their concerns. I will continue to research this option and work with community leaders to see what options we have.

As a part of this process, I would like to invite you out to my district in California for the purpose of engaging with the veterans community. On Friday, April 21st, I intend to have a bus tour of the designated site for a cemetery at Fort Ord in addition to a town hall style meeting. My district scheduler, Bonnie Van Hise, will be in touch with your office regarding this.

I look forward to working with you and your colleagues on this issue.

Sincerely,


SAM FARR
Member of Congress

*Please come
join me and
see what I'm
talking about.*

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